

Baseball Season Approaches; Close Races For Pennants Sure In Major Leagues

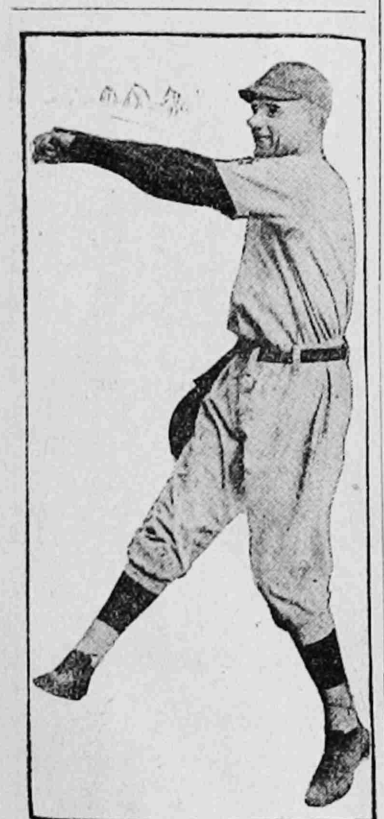
WE are now on the eve of the opening of the baseball season, and at last the festive fans admit that life is worth living. The American league fires the first gun Monday, April 12, and two days later the Nationals begin operations. Then the fight for the two major league pen-



HANS WAGNER, THE LEADING SWAT ARTIST OF THE COUNTRY.

Early in the year Hans Wagner was one of the most prominent members of the holdout club. He had announced that in the future he would devote his time to the circus and automobile business, but recently he attached his signature to a contract calling for a salary of \$12,000, an increase of \$2,000 over last year.

nants will be on in earnest, and our favorite diamond stars will once more cavort in front of us, thrilling us by their raising two and three baggers and discomfiting our articles on the mias by sensational running catches and one hand stops. Yes; this mundane sphere of ours seems a pleasant place to live on now that the baseball campaign is about to open again. And, having developed our voices to their proper "rooting" strength, prepared a choice collection of "knocks" for the lads who cause our team to go down to defeat—last, and not least, having laid in a store of "fresh roasted peanuts, only five a bag" and filled our pockets with long, black, deadly stogies, we will proceed to wend our way to the clicking turnstile, beyond which we find pleasure such as genuine fans would exchange for no other.



PITCHER "RUBE" MARQUARD OF THE NEW YORK NATIONALS.
Great things are expected from "Rube" Marquard, Johnny McGraw's \$11,000 beauty, whom he secured from the Indianapolis team last season. "Rube" has shown remarkable control and a splendid collection of curves in the exhibition games this spring. McGraw says that Marquard will be one of the leading south paws this season.

Cantrill thinks with the addition of "Wild" Conroy, the old New Yorker, at third corner the team now looks like a pennant winner.

A spirit of confidence is being manifested all along the line. Hugh Jennings does not see any team on the horizon capable of preventing the Tigers from breaking a record in the American league and landing a third

The New Yorks appear to be stronger than last year, even though Donlin and Bresnahan will be missing. Johnny McGraw has about the best collection of youngsters in the National league to draw from. While Bresnahan will be missed to a certain extent, both Schlie and "Big Chief" Meyers will surely show some excellent backslapping this season, aided along by Snodgrass and Wilson. The infield will be about the same, but the make-up of the outer gardens is problematical. But McGraw has Seymour, McCormick, O'Hara and Herzog to draw on.

Billy Murray announces that the Phillies will have quite a little to say about who shall carry off the flag. The hustling manager says his team will be 50 per cent stronger this season than last. If so, the Giants, Pirates and Cubs had better look out, as the Quakerite makes but few idle boasts.

With Pitcher "Buster" Brown back into shape, the Phillies present a strong array of pitching talent. The team has a splendid in and out field, to say nothing of two expert backstops in Jacklithe and Dooin.

Very little change will be made in the Pittsburgh lineup. The manager, Fred Clarke, is wont to say much, but does a whole lot and may furnish us with a surprise. The only real weak spot on the team is first base, but the quiet handler of the Pirates thinks Abstein will fill the bill. While Clarke has made no predictions, it is plausible to say that the Pittsburghers will surely be in the hunt for the flag.

Of the other teams there is not much to choose between Brooklyn and Cincinnati. With Lumsley and Griffith, the two new managers, at the helm, it is rather difficult to say what kind of a showing the two clubs will make. Boston has many veterans and also many youngsters. But Manager Bowenman may be able to get together a winning combination. All eyes are centered on Roger Bresnahan as manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. Many there who expect to see the famous catcher get together a fairly good second division team. With the installation of McGraw's methods in handling a team, it seems possible that Roger, of shin guard fame, may be as much of a success as John McCloskey was a failure.

BOISE SMALL.

MANY LEFT HAND HITTERS.
About 94 per cent of otherwise normal people use the right hand in preference to the left, 6 per cent are left handed, and it is a curious fact that one-third of the 6 per cent are ambidextrous. If this proportion applied to baseball south paw pitchers and batters, it would cut no ice whatever.

As it is, fully a third of the players in the major leagues are left handed, or at least pitch and bat left handed, while only a few throw with the south paw. This extraordinary percentage is doubtless due to the fact that magistrates and managers sedulously cultivate south paw pitchers and batters, particularly the latter, under the belief that the left handed pitcher has some-

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As for the Highlanders, New York fans are content with Manager Stallings' statement: "The team I command is much better than enthusiastic imagine. We may not be first, but it is a cinch we won't be last. I am hopeful, and so should be the New York fans."

The National League Prospects.

In the National league another close race is anticipated. New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are all claiming the much coveted flag. The Chicago team this season will be practically the same as the one that has captured three pennants and two world's championships. The Cubs' pitching department will probably be strengthened by the addition of one or two youngsters. There will be no change in any of the outfield positions, but in the outer garden Artie Hofman, the Cubs' star utility man, is slated to succeed Slagle. Manager Chance is not worrying about his team. He thinks his star backstop will return after the season is a couple of weeks old.

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VETERAN PITCHER CY YOUNG OF THE CLEVELAND AMERICANS.

With the addition of Cy Young to their pitching staff the chances of the Naps in the coming struggle are greatly strengthened. Old Cy, Lajole thinks, is good enough for a few seasons more in fast company, and with the Naps' strong infield to back him up the veteran will greatly add to his already long list of victories.

thing on left handed batters, while such batters have an advantage over right handed batters in a quicker start to first base and a fraction of a second in close plays at the bag.

This latter fact accounts for the steady increase of natural left handed batters and of right handed batters who change to the other hand. This advantage of time on close plays at first base also helps many left handed batters to high position in the batting averages, but for real solid slugging we must look to the normal right handed batters.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL.

Now that the American governing body in association football has become affiliated with the English association some hopes are entertained that means may be found to bring about contests between the representative football teams of the two countries. Many Englishmen who have seen the American game share the opinion expressed by Lord Northcliffe when he visited America that in many respects the English Rugby game is superior to that played by American colleges, and it is thought that the affiliation, which took place recently, may be the first step toward a general move in favor of the English system.

So far as association football is concerned, of course, affiliation makes the prospect of an international contest very good.

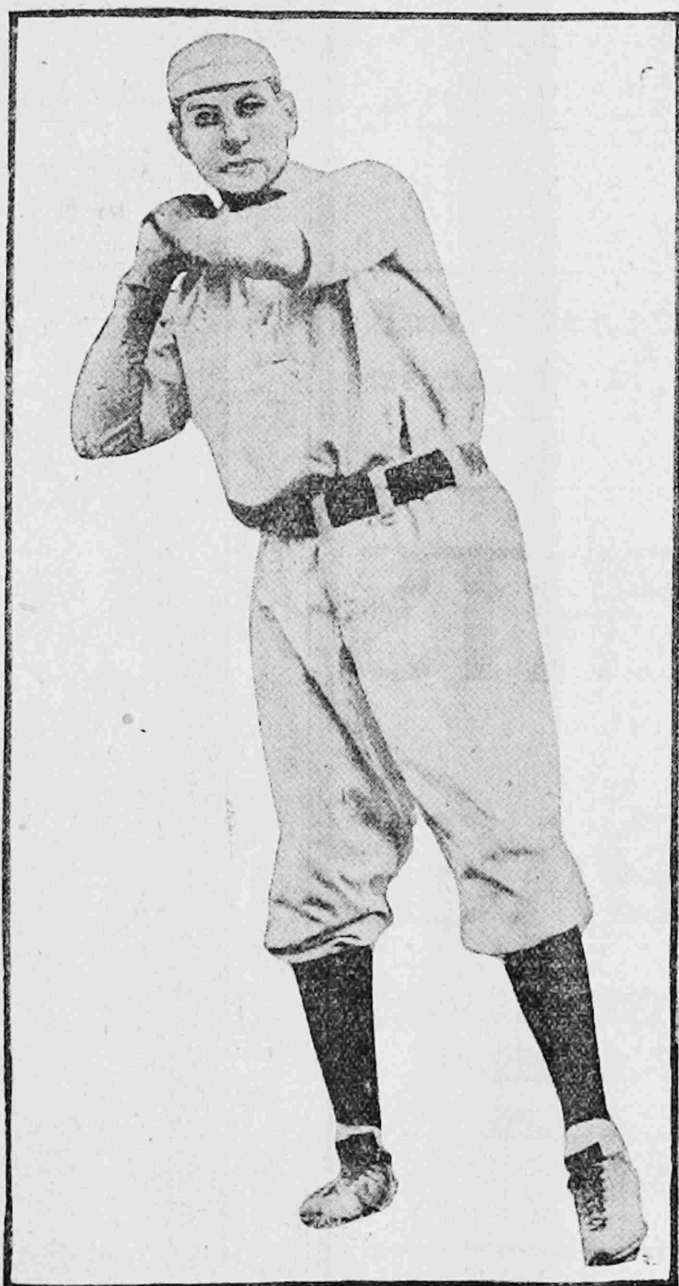
Association, or soccer, football enjoys much greater popularity in England than the Rugby game. It is more of a professional game than Rugby, though the spirit of professionalism has made large encroachments upon the Rugby field in recent years, much to the regret of those who hold that the game should be played for love of the game rather than for lucre.

MITCHELL'S GREAT RECORD.

James S. Mitchell, the weight thrower of the New York Athletic club, has won 1,056 first prizes, 300 second and 112 third. He holds the record for National A. A. U. championships, with twenty outdoor and five indoor titles.

MANY NEW PROFESSIONALS.

Among the Olympic men who have turned professionals since the big games last summer are Dorando, Hayes, Simpson and Longboat, pedestrians; Cameron and Lapoe, cyclists, and a bunch of English wrestlers.



"BIG CHIEF" CHARLIE BENDER OF THE PHILADELPHIA AMERICANS.

Charlie Bender, the great Indian pitcher of the Philadelphia Americans, is now in splendid shape to take his turn in the box. Last year illness prevented "Big Chief" from making as good a record as he did in 1907, when he was one of the star twirlers of Ben Johnson's circuit.

In Dodd Drama Eve Has Clothes, but No Ideas. Adam Is Welcome to Her

(From Our New York Dramatic Correspondent.)

"THE RETURN OF EVE" marks the return of Miss Bertha Galland to the stellar atmosphere of the New York stage, but Eve might just as well have remained where she was. Her return gives the populace much pain—that is, those of the thousands who visit the Herald Square theater to survey the manner of her reappearance.

So far as Miss Galland and her acting are concerned, there is not much to complain of, but the play's the thing, we are told and must believe. The play's the thing that in this instance reminds us of harsh things we have heard about the stage jars our nerves and stuns our finer sensibilities that alone mark our superiority over our fellow men.

Purity Again Exalted.

The projection into a modern drawing room, reeking with the atmosphere of gossip and slander, of a pure young girl reared in the backwoods, without an atom of worldly knowledge reaching her ears, augurs well. Galatea and Nobe come instantly to mind as examples of elemental femininity proceeding through conventionalities with fantastic and engaging comedy as an immediate consequence. In "A Stubborn Cinderella," at the Broadway, Miss Sallie Fisher is playing a young girl brought up in absolute ignorance of cant and humbug, and the scene in which she makes love is charming. But Mr. Dodd, at the Herald Square, does not take advantage of his opportunities. After the first act, when Eve shows her physical strength and transparent mind in several quite episodes, "The Return of Eve" runs on the tracks of commonplace melodrama. There is not a scene, not a sentence, that suggests a playful fancy, let alone an unusual imaginative faculty.

Eve Learns of Herself From Others.

Let loose in "society," Eve squanders her great wealth, gives presents to parties galore and presents herself to the audience while hostess at an "anti-masquerade" reception at her Hudson river home. She accepts the love of a rounder engaged to another woman, but rejects it from a gold chair on a platform before a throng of "guests" after she has hid behind a plant and overheard her friends administer some artistic knocks upon her character and lack of it.

In the last act Eve returns to her

semibarbaric life and, learning that Adam, who had been her companion in childhood, is not her brother after all, prepares to lead him to the nearest tropical minister or justice of the peace.

Frederick Tregellas

TEN MORE PLAYS FOR KLEIN.

Charles Klein, author of "The Music Master" and, most recent, "The Third Degree," announced recently that in the future he will confine his efforts to writing only one play a year. And, moreover, he would, when he had completed his tenth play, permanently retire as a dramatist and playwright.

Speaking further, Mr. Klein said: "I do not think a man can write good plays and write them in a hurry. One play a year taxes his ability, and he should not, in justice to the producing manager, essay more than one." Mr. Klein closed a contract to write these ten plays for Henry B. Harris, upon whom he conferred the exclusive right for their production.

HUNEKER ON "SALVATION NELL."

James Huneker, the author of "Iconoclasm," pronounces Mrs. Fiske's Nell Sanders "an extraordinary impersonation," and says that her work has come plentifully, and American dollars have gone back to him in abundant store. In American accounts of his career it is stated that Fanny Davenport, who played his "Fedora," "Gismonda," "Cleopatra" and many other dramas, sent him half a million in royalties. His "Diplomacy," or, as it is otherwise called, "Dora," has been interpreted for us by Mr. Frohman's company; Rejane, Ellen Terry and Kathryn Kiddle have acquainted us with "Madame Sans Gene," and Sir Henry Irving has disclosed the spectacular "Robespierre" and "Dante's" plays made for his special purposes.

How an Actress Fought Her Way to the Top

NO calling open to women affords more opportunities for advancement than does the stage. The statement is confirmed when, in the career of Helen Ware, who has succeeded in the role of Annie Jeffries in Charles Klein's new play, "The Third Degree." It was but a few years ago when this actress, in order to obtain money to attend to the Empire theater, was compelled to teach swimming in the public bath maintained by the city of New York on the Hudson river. Her nights were given over to teaching in a vacation school in an east side settlement. Having saved \$50, she enrolled in a school for dramatic instruction and stayed there for four weeks, the tuition being \$20 a week. Hearing that superiors were wanted with Maude Adams, who was then presenting "The Little Minister" at the Empire theater, Miss Ware sought out the management and obtained a position at 50 cents a performance. There were twoscore or more of women superiors, but by reason of the care that she took in the matter of makeup and dress Miss Ware was picked out by the stage manager as the one who showed the greatest talent and was made the leader of the mob. Although she spoke not a line, her pantomime was so striking that it earned for her the commendation of the star and her stage manager.

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tion" and pays this tribute to Harrison Grey Fiske's staging of "Salvation Nell." "As for the stage settings and stage management of acts 1 and 2, never in all my theater going, extending over thirty years, have I seen stage illusion evoked and maintained as in these two acts. It's true. It parallels any vaunted 'realism' of the Theatre Libre or the new Verismo. I wish Gordon Craig could have seen that barren scene or the street scene, the latter like one of George Luk's marvelous studies of the east side."

HOW SARDOU ALMOST BECAME AN AMERICAN.

Victorien Sardou, who died recently, escaped being a naturalized American by what he perhaps would have called an intervention of Providence. In one moment of desperation Sardou resolved to leave Paris and seek his fortune in America. As he started from his lodging for the boat train a great stone dropped from a builder's scaffold and killed a man beside him. Sardou said: "If I were not killed it was because I ought to remain here. Paris owes me revenge." He never

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